

Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) (formerly AML Pilot)

Overview of AMLER Grant Timeline from Vetting to Construction

Note: Federal guidelines within the CFR override the state guidelines. State guidelines cannot allow something that the Federal guidelines do not; otherwise, follow state guidelines.

Selected projects will be sent to the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement (OSMRE) for approval. This vetting review process evaluates the concept of the project and whether it meets the intent of the grant program. It may take several months to complete during which revisions, clarifications, and additional information may be requested. Applicants are also evaluated to ensure compliance with financial rules and regulations. During review, additional information or clarification may be requested.

Upon determination that OSMRE is satisfied with the concept of the project, that the project meets the intent of the grant program, and that the applicant is in good financial standing with the capacity to execute the project, a Letter to Proceed will be issued and Subrecipient Status will be approved for the applicant. **Projects that are unable to pass OSMRE review will not receive funding.** Subrecipients will be required to sign a Project Agreement document which describes their obligations to faithfully and legally execute the project.

The next stage is project development. This includes coordinating proposed up-front expenditures, preparation of project plans, preparation of documents for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, and any other Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements needed for the project. OSMRE requires that, at minimum, an Environmental Assessment (EA) be prepared for each AMLER project. NEPA documents will be submitted to OSMRE for evaluation to issue an Authorization to Proceed (ATP). Additionally, concurrently prepared project plans are evaluated by the Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy). During this time you will begin submitting monthly progress reports to Virginia Energy.

Following environmental document and plan approval, OSMRE and Virginia Energy will authorize the construction stage to begin during which on-the-ground construction, property purchases and other approved project activities occur. No such expenditures or procurement of expenditures may occur prior to this stage.

The applicant is typically responsible for all project development and construction stage activities and may hire out, in accordance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act, appropriate professional and nonprofessional services toward the successful completion of the project. Additionally, applicants are required to execute a project agreement and/or contract with Virginia Energy which describes their obligations to faithfully and legally execute the project. Compliance with OSMRE's AMLER Program Guidance Document, Virginia Energy's AMLER Terms & Conditions, OSMRE's Federal Assistance Manual and 2 CFR Part 200, is required.